

**How Far From Here is Home:  
Space and Silence in Creative Practice**

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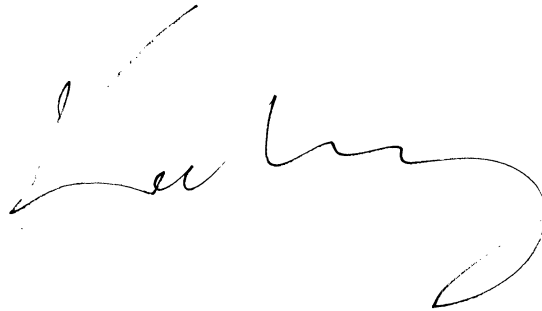
Submitted, with the novel *Captain Starlight's  
Apprentice*, in fulfilment of the requirements for  
the degree of Doctorate in Creative Arts

University of Technology, Sydney

2008

**I certify that all corrections in the body of the work have  
been made, to the satisfaction of my supervisor.**

**Signature of Candidate:**

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I certify that the work in this thesis has not previously been submitted for a degree, nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree except as fully acknowledged within the text.

I also certify that the thesis has been written by me. Any help that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself has been fully acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

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## Acknowledgements

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The title for the exegesis comes from Anthony Wilson's first poetry collection, published by Stride in 1997, and I'm thankful to Anthony for permission to use the title.

The essays which form the exegesis - Part Two of this thesis – have been published in the following publications: *Good Weekend*; *The Weekend Australian*; *Vogue Australia*; *Psychologies Magazine*; *eve Magazine*; and *MsLexia*. My thanks to the editors.

Additional thanks are due to Richard Griffiths for his invaluable assistance with both Part One and Part Two of this thesis: it may *possibly* have been completed without him, but with substantially less grace, humour, or skill.

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## ABSTRACT

*Captain Starlight's Apprentice* is a novel about home, displacement and longing. Beginning as a novel about a woman bushranger, Jessie Hickman, the novel is historical in setting without being categorisable as an historical novel. At the centre of the novel is a connection between two characters across time.

Part Two of this thesis, *How Far From Here is Home*, is a series of journalistic pieces using a mix of memoir, op-ed and reportage, which as a whole form a study of the processes of writing fiction. In particular, these essays consider the necessity for silence and solitude in the making of an emotionally authentic creative work. As the title suggests, *How Far From Here is Home*, is concerned with the importance of home, and displacement, in literature, and in particular in *Captain Starlight's Apprentice*.